

**City of San Diego
Community Forest Advisory Board**

MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2013
City Administration Building

1) **Convene:** Anne Fege, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

2) **Present:**

Members – Fausto Palafox, Robin Rivet, Jon Becker, Jake Banfield-Weir, Stephen Lamprides, Mary Johnson, Joe Jones, Victoria Heithaus, Craig Jones, Tershia d’Elgin

[Not Present] –

Guests – Guy Preuss (Skyline/Paradise Hills CPG), Mike Palat (WCA/SDRUF), Devon Boutte (Schmidt Design Group), Scott Murray (South Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council)

City Staff – Craig Hooker, Jeff Harkness, Drew Potocki, Mike Marika, Lee Friedman

3) **Approval of February Minutes:** Approved with edits. (Becker/Johnson)

4) **Chair’s Announcements:** As nominations to fill expired and vacant CFAB positions are currently being processed by the Mayor’s office, the continued active participation of current members is greatly appreciated.

5) **City Staff Reports**

- a) Urban Greening and Urban Forest Plan, Melissa Garcia, Planning Division. Applications are currently being reviewed, for contractor to conduct the Greening Planning project for North Bay-Midway area, a grant from the California Strategic Growth Council, through the Natural Resources Agency. The City has signed an agreement with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for the Urban Forest Planning grant, and Ms Garcia is working with Procurement to develop a sole-source consulting agreement with the South Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council to implement the tasks.
- b) Infrastructure Committee, Almys Udrys, Councilmember Mark Kersey’s Office. Mr Udrys reviewed recent activities by the newly-formed Infrastructure Committee. They will develop a 5-year plan in the next 18 months to include a facilities assessment, service levels, engagement of community planning groups, schedule and costs of maintenance. Potocki, Rivet, Marika, Heithaus and d’Elgin offered suggestions on affirming that trees are assets (the only ones that appreciate with time), policy changes, and incorporation of sustainability goals in infrastructure programs.
- c) Compliance issues, Craig Hooker, Planning Division. Street trees are commonly required in approving development permits, but there are code compliance actions only when there are complaints. Clear direction and funding for code compliance are needed before City staff can increase their efforts. C.Jones gave an overview of the Mitigation Monitoring Coordination Program that monitors development projects and requires that changes are approved and implemented to be in conformance with the permit requirements (<http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services/devprocess/inspection/mmc.shtml>). One of the three staff is the landscape

inspector, Krassimir Tzonov, (619) 980-7208, ktzonov@sandiego.gov. Concerns were expressed by Rivet about quality of trees planted, by Palafox about checking if the trees are still alive 1-5 years later, and by Potocki that there is no online form for reporting tree violations (only phone number), at <http://www.sandiego.gov/nccd/about/index.shtml>.

6) Working Group Reports:

- a) Policies Working Group, Jon Becker. The group is reviewing the City's regulations and Council Policies for inconsistencies and inaccuracies, and will review these with City staff and recommend changes. Heithaus reminded us that department chairs need to be involved in this process (John Helminski, Stacey LoMedico, and Kelly Broughton)
- b) Partnerships/Finance, Jake Banfield-Weir. The Mayor's budget will be released on April 15 (<http://www.sandiego.gov/fm/proposed/>). City Council budget hearings will be held the week of May 6. Rivet, Banfield-Weir, Palafox, Heithaus, and Anne are willing to attend and speak on behalf of urban forestry funding.
- c) Education/Outreach, Mary Johnson. Changes have been identified for webpages that relate to CFAB, to link the pages to each other and to correct inconsistencies. These changes now need to be implemented, with City staff. CFAB members should attend some meetings of the community planning groups in their district, to raise urban forestry issues and give or get updates on violations, tree removal and tree planting, and opportunities to increase tree cover.

8) Action Item(s): None

9) Public Comment:

- a) Mike Palat reported that the City had rejected all bids for the Citywide Tree Care Services contract (West Coast Arborists had submitted bids).
- b) Arbor Day Celebration will be held on April 26 in Balboa Park, hosted by Friends of Balboa Park. Council President Gloria and San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council chair Mike Palat are confirmed as speakers.

10) For the Next Meeting:

- a) Status of current and upcoming community plan updates (Planning)
- b) Water Implementation Policy Task Force (invite Greg Schmidt, Chair)
- c) Nomination of olive grove in Scripps Ranch as heritage grove, May or June (Craig Jones and Andy Field)
- d) Policies working group to review contradictions within Municipal Code and other rules governing CFAB procedures (Jon Becker)

11) Adjourned at 1:15 p.m.